

**THE PATENT LAWS.**—By the Amendment Bill, which lately made its way through Lords and Commons, one patent is made sufficient for the whole of the three United Kingdoms and the colonies. On payment of a fee of 5*l.* on leaving petition for grant of letters patent, provisional protection for six months to be granted, during which the invention to be patented might be published and used without prejudice to any letters patent to be granted for same. Within six months this protection to lapse, unless notice to proceed given, and 5*l.* paid, after which the following fees:—On sealing of letters patent, 5*l.*; on filing specification, 5*l.*; at or before expiry of third year, 40*l.*; at or before expiry of seventh year, 80*l.* Other fees:—On objection to letters patent, 2*l.*; on search, 1*s.*; entry of assignment or license, 5*s.*; certificate of assent, 5*s.*; filing application for disclaimer, 5*l.*; caveat against disclaimer, 2*l.* Stamp duties to be paid:—on warrant of law officer for letters patent, 5*l.*; on certificate of payment of fee at expiry of third year, 10*l.*; at expiry of seventh year, 30*l.* All specifications to be printed and sold, and indices of specifications to be kept open to the public. New office of patents to be opened, and compensation given to old officers. Law to take effect on 1st October, 1852.

**HOW LOW TENDERS ARE CARRIED OUT.**—Some months since persons were invited to tender for the re-seating, &c. of one of the largest churches in this country: many others as well as myself were at considerable expense and trouble to arrive at the real value of the work to be done. The new seating consisted of open benches, to be made of the "best dry Riga wainscot," in quality equal to a model sent prepared (of real size) as a specimen for the competitors to value their work by. This sent was made of good dry Riga wainscot according to the specification, the value of market price of which was not less than 8*s.* per foot superficial, and thinking the estimates were in earnest in what they had set forth, I valued my work accordingly, but to my great surprise I found myself considerably beaten in price when the tenders were opened, and I have not, till very recently, been able to understand how it was. But upon being offered by my timber merchant some "Baltic oak" at 3*s.* per foot cube, or 2*d.* per foot superficial, which he assured me was the very same timber as that he had supplied for the fittings of the church in question a few weeks before, I saw at once how my brother competitor was about to make himself right, and get a much larger profit than I had ever contemplated, if the committee will only allow him to set them up. —X. Y. Z.

**IRISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION LECTURES AT CORK.**—The series of lectures intended to be given in connection with the Cork Exhibition has been opened by Archbishop Whately. The inauguration took place in the banquet-room, which was filled by a crowd of ladies and gentlemen. His grace, in delivering the introductory lecture, stated that the lectures themselves were not to be considered as a course of education even in any one department, but merely as specimens of the instruments which existed in that country for cultivating the human mind in the shape of good instruction.

**THE NATIONAL AND INFANT SCHOOLS OF CHRISTCHURCH, MARYLEBONE.**—The foundation stone of the new schools in the district of Christchurch, Marylebone, was laid on Saturday last by the Bishop of London. The site is a large plot of land closely adjoining to Christ Church, and forming the corner of Lincoln-street and Stafford-street, Lincoln-grove; and for site, as well as building, the district is indebted to Miss Lewis, of Gessow-gardens, Kent-terrace, Regent's-park, who has, at least, given 600*l.* towards the site, and is to pay the whole cost of the building, which is estimated at 4,000*l.* It is designed by the architect, Mr. Joseph Plemming, to accommodate about 750 children, and will also contain apartments for masters, mistresses, and teachers engaged in the education of the poor. The erection has been entrusted to Messrs. Winsland and Co. builders.

**FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT WITH MELTED IRON.**—One of those shocking casualties of which a sight of the "lading" process in large foundries leads one, instinctively, as it were, to dread a much more frequent recurrence than actually takes place, has just occurred at the foundry of Messrs. Mars and Co. at Blackwall, in course of an immense casting for a "ladle," containing twelve tons of red-hot liquid iron, and mounted on wheels, had been filled and was being conveyed to its destination. One of the wheels suddenly broke, and upset the liquid among the poor fellows at work with it, scalding and burning their feet, arms, legs, and faces, and various parts of their bodies. One of them, named Garlick, was discovered under the hot metal shockingly burnt and quite dead. Eight of those who had received the worst injuries were placed in carts and conveyed with all possible care to the accident-ward of the London Hospital. Two of them are very extensively injured.

**WHAT WE LIVE AMONGST.**—Nothing can be more true than the observation I met with in your excellent journal, namely, that "Our children brought up amidst vagaries of the vilest taste, are reconciled by habit to ugliness and incongruity." Is it not, then, to be lamented that, in almost all buildings, lately erected, for the instruction of youth, no other taste is exhibited than one fitting for the construction of poor-houses and prisons? Why are all our charitable institutions to be models of gloom and darkness—windows few and small—roofs high, and chimneys obtruding themselves as beauties—a capricious irregularity of plan, with much space consequently lost—no symmetry or grace, and an outline unpicturesque and mean? —A LONDONER.

**BRISTOL HOSPITAL COMPETITION.**—The drawings submitted in competition are still under consideration we believe. In reply to some inquirers, if the directors have not obtained the assistance of a competent professional man in the examination of the drawings, they ought unquestionably to do so. We are not disposed to publish the letter of a "Bristolian" without proof of its correctness. There has been a correspondence in the local papers concerning some of the candidates, which has a curious aspect, considering that the matter is still *sub judice*.

**FALLING BALCONIES.**—A poor man was killed a few days ago by the falling of a balcony attached to a newly-built house in Denbigh-place, Pimlico. The deceased had been in the balcony only a few minutes when it gave way. Thomas Casey, superintendent of the masons' work, said he believed the accident arose in consequence of the settlement of the building, which had crushed the stone supporting the balcony, or that some heavy substance had fallen on the balcony. The stone, which was built with the house, was 24 inches thick, and was inset 9 inches in the wall. It was 3 feet projecting under the balcony. There were only two persons in the balcony when it gave way, and the pressure on it (the balcony) was about 3 cwt. After the accident, there was no flaw observed in the stone. We have before now drawn attention to the dangerous condition in which balconies are often left. It is desirable that stone bottoms for balconies should have cantilevers, however efficient the tiling in may be, for fear of flaws in the stone. Many of the iron balconies that are put up are little better than nailed to a brick wall!

**VALUE OF LAND AT KINGSTON.**—Mr. Nightingale has recently sold by auction, in sixteen lots, a series of building ground: one lot, only a quarter of an acre in extent, sold for 300*l.*; and the whole realized 2,630*l.* On the same day a close of land at Walton, let for 7*l.* a year, he sold for 400*l.* being upwards of fifty-seven years' purchase.

**THE GERARD'S HALL CRYPT AT BASING-LAWS.**—The committee of the city council appointed to consider as to the preservation of this memorial of antiquity, by removal and reconstruction under the Guildhall have determined against the proposal, on account mainly of the cost, which they estimate at 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.*

**THE LEON TRADE.**—The quarterly-meeting masters appear to be still unable to realise a general rise in prices, and have resolved to abide by the old nominal rates at their forthcoming meeting. We need scarcely say that the actual trade prices are below these nominal ones of the high price supporters; the latter being admittedly "high prices."

**NEW LEVELLING INSTRUMENT.**—A patent has been granted to Mr. W. Gillespie, of Torbanehill, near Bathgate, in Scotland, for a new instrument which is thus spoken of by the *Edinburgh Evening Post*:—"The new implement at once adjusts itself mechanically to the slope sought to be ascertained, or may be mechanically adjusted to any slope that workmen may wish to make. The patentee, under these circumstances, conceives that his simple yet ingenious device must be found extensively applicable in the formation of all future public works, and of most private improvements connected with land, such as railways, canals, piers, roads, embankments;" and the *Post*, after having seen the working model deposited for inspection at the office of Mr. Telford, recommends the contrivance "to the notice of all engineers, draughtsmen, and contractors, having no doubt that saving of labour and expense may to a great extent be accomplished through its instrumentality, and not only so, but a decided improvement effected at the same time in the execution of the works."

**NUISANCE OF GAS-LIQUOR IN NEW BRIDGE-STREET, CITY.**—Complaints having been made of an intolerable nuisance of daily occurrence in this quarter of the town, the surveyor to the City Sewers Commission, Mr. Haywood, investigated the subject, and reported that it arose from the practice of the City of London Gas Company discharging their waste liquor into the Thames. The nuisance was worse than usual when this was not done with the ebb-tide, and a mere want of sufficient storage occasionally led to this increase of the nuisance. The surveyor recommended increased storage as a temporary expedient till measures be taken to prevent either the Thames or the sewers from being thus polluted—a question at once referred to the committee of general purposes. Other gas companies north of the river appear to discharge their waste liquor through the sewers, complaint of which has also been made, especially as regards the Fleet-sewer.

#### TENDERS

For building two houses in Newington Causeway for Mr. Mans. Mr. Wm. Rogers, architect.

Bunney	21,310
Cooper	956
Tombs	967
Taylor	904
Maria Ward	947

London and Westminster Bank alterations and additions. Mr. W. Tate, architect.

Nicholson	27,080
Hayward and Nixon	6,850
Lee and Son	6,975
Cubitt and Co.	6,980
Grimsdell	7,787
Locke and Neesham	6,630
Piper	6,558
Myers	6,315
Little	6,088
Jay	5,984

For new schools, &c. at Nottingham for the Midland Institution of the Blind. Messrs. Ashton and Capes, architects.

Simpson, Nottingham	23,250
Haslem, Maccles	2,980
East and Hill, Nottingham	2,866
Hall, Nottingham	2,490
C. C. and A. Darnett, Nottingham (accepted)	2,783

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Riga" (red and yellow fir is imported from Norway, Sweden, Russia, &c. Some also come from Scotland. It is perhaps the most durable of the pine species. We are not aware that there is much difference between the strength of red and yellow. The common white deal comes from Norway. Note was overlooked).

"R. G. T." (donor of Honduras mahogany) answered with Spanish words best answer the purpose. Note makes a wholesome censure. The evidence in favour of gutta percha pipes for the conveyance of steam and gas is too strong to be gainsaid. "H. C." "J. D. W." "Author of the Pamphlet," "H. C." "J. D. W." "Messrs. D. & B." "H. K." "W. A." (will find note at the office). "G. G." (two lines before mentioned). "Kee" (Stockholm). "General H." "C. B. and Co." "T. D." "A. P." "T. B." "J. W. H." "S. W." "A. and U." "H. C. B." (under our mark). "M. H." (ditto). "J. B. W." (ditto). "P. P." (ditto). "J. B." "R. O."